

St Joseph and St Wilfrid Weekly Newsletter

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1143450

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Week Commencing 24th November 2019 ≈ (OF) ~ FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT ≈ (EF)



The Immaculate Conception

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains the Feast we celebrate on December 8th in this way: "To become the mother of the Saviour, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace". In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace. "Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." "The "splendour of an entirely unique holiness" by which Mary is "enriched from the first instant of her conception" comes wholly from Christ: she is "redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son". The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" and chose her "in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love". (Eph. 1:3,4) "The Fathers of the Eastern tradition call the Mother of God "the All-Holy" (Pangaea), and celebrate her as "free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature". By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long."

Reflection

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary did for the understanding of Christian doctrine what the pro-life movement does for the understanding of human dignity. The Immaculate Conception endows Mary with Redemption, salvation and holiness, her eternal worth, rights and personhood " from the first moment of conception." The personhood of the unborn child is the most compelling moral issue of our time. It is so precisely because it defines **who is a human being - and who a human being is**. We all know that we must treat each and every human being with the ultimate respect and never deem any person "disposable." Genocide, homicide and murder must never be condoned, because it unjustifiably destroys a human being. The reason the unborn child is at the very essence of the question of human dignity, human rights and protection is that, if it is unknown who is a human being, then how can human rights be defined and protected? If any human being can be deprived of the right to life, then all human beings can be deprived of life. It is no longer possible to avoid the question of when a human begins - too much is at stake. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception teaches that "the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her Conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin." The Immaculate Conception teaches us that everything that Mary would become she already was in the first moment of her conception." Mary was not less than Mary before her birth. She possessed, albeit in a hidden way, all the Grace and spiritual attributes granted her by the merits of Jesus Christ the Redeemer, from the first moment of her conception. What does this teach us about ourselves? That we possess our full potential - our full personhood - from the first moment of our conception. Everyone of you has always been who you are today. You have grown in knowledge, experience and even faith - but you have never been anyone but yourself, you have never been anyone other than you, you have never, ever been anything less than a unique, unrepeatable, human person. The Immaculate Conception demonstrates that God created each one of us with a unique purpose and plan for our lives, and that plan began the first moment of our conception.

REMEMBER

Find us on Facebook

8th December

Blessing of the Christmas tree and carol service this afternoon 3pm

14th December

Pro-Life Holy Hour at St. Andrew's, Worswick Street, 11am to 12 noon followed by Mass at 12.15 pm

14th December

Christmas Draw St Wilfrid's

24th December

Christmas Vigil Mass 5pm at both churches.

Latin Midnight Mass at St Joseph's

25th December

Christmas Day Mass 10am at St Joseph's

13th January

Book Club 7pm

MAY 2020 ROME

4th-8th May

Curry Night

Thank you to Peter Locke for a very successful and enjoyable evening, we look forward to the next one!

YOUTH CHOIR

Aged 7-17yrs? Enjoy singing? Like to join a choir? There will be a meeting for all interested parties in the New Year.

COMMUNITY CHOIR

We meet **every Wednesday at 10am** in the John Ingram room. For more information speak to Mrs. Teresa Dewhurst.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Friday at 5pm

All children aged 3-6 are welcome
For more information speak to Fr Michael or Peter Armstrong

St Joseph's Primary School

Carol service Monday 16th December at 5pm all are very welcome

PARTNERSHIP AND DIOCESAN NEWS/EVENTS

EUCCHARISTIC ASSOCIATION

St ANDREW'S WORSWICK STREET

Please note the change of venue for the Holy Hour formerly held at St Joseph's on the first Sunday of the month

Advent Pro-Life Holy Hour at St. Andrew's, Worswick Street, Newcastle, on Saturday 14 December from 11am to 12 noon followed by Mass at 12.15

Holy Family Guild

Join us on Sunday 15th December at 3.30 for carol singing around the village green in Great Usworth. Please see poster at back of church.

BOOK CLUB

New members always welcome. We are reading 'The Day is Now Far Spent' by Cardinal Robert Sarah, books now available from the sacristy at discounted price of £14.85 courtesy of the cathedral bookshop - see Fr Michael. We will meet to discuss it on **Monday 13th January at 7pm**

BECOMING a CATHOLIC

Next Session Friday 13th December 5pm

PILGRIMAGE to ROME 2020

4th - 8th May. Booking Forms will be given out at the beginning of the New Year when a deposit of £200 per person will also be required.

Northern Catholic Calendar now available at the back of church. Ring bound £3.50/Flat £3.00

ST JOSEPH'S

Confessions: Wednesday after Mass & Saturday 12-12.30pm
Exposition: None this week

Photographs

Please would all those who have a prominent role within the parish, (*choir leaders, organists, CMUK, HFG organisers etc*) see Fr about displaying their portraits in order to be recognised by all parishioners and visitors. Thank you for all those sent.

Gift Aid

Forms and boxes are available now, please see Fr Michael or Alan Young

Piety Stall

Will be open **EVERY Sunday** from after **10am Mass until 11.45am**

ST WILFRID'S

Confessions: Before Mass on Saturdays
Exposition: Saturday 4.30 - 4.55 (**NB NON on 14th December**)

CHRISTMAS DRAW.

The draw will take place next Saturday in the Presbytery after Mass. We hope you will all come in and spend some time in each others company and exchange Christmas greetings. There is a list at the back of Church so please put your name/s on if you are coming in. There will be a shared table so please bring something along. The list of winners will be available at the back of Church from Monday, on our Facebook Page and in the bulletin next week. Good Luck.

POINSETTIA PLANTS.

It has become somewhat of a tradition here at St Wilfrid's that we have these plants in Church to remember our loved ones and friends during the festive season. They also really enhance the decorations in Church. You can bring them in anytime but we ask please that you bring medium size or small ones because the larger ones don't fit on the window sills.

CANDLES.

As you can see we have Christmas Candles on some window sills in Church with the names of our loved ones and friends who have died. You can take them home on Christmas Eve if you wish. Many Thanks to Sandra for her hard work in organising all the candles.

Admission Appeals Panel Members: The Diocesan Department for Education welcomes applications from Catholic persons willing to be considered as lay or non-lay members of appeal panels for school admissions. Suitable appeal panels for school admissions. Suitable persons will be appointed to serve on panels hearing appeals for Catholic schools within The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Please see poster for more details or the Diocesan vacancies website.

MISSION CHRISTMAS.

1 IN 3 CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN POVERTY

you can help make sure they have presents to open on Christmas morning. St. Mary's Cathedral Mercy Hub is collecting gifts (not cash!) on behalf of the charity "Cash for Kids". Please bring any donations, new and unwrapped, to our main entrance on Neville Street, over the road from the railway station. We'll always be there weekdays from 8.30 till 10am and then from 4 to 6pm but may be there other times too- there'll be a sign outside if we are. If you'd prefer to collect gifts in your parish first, ring us on 07904881430 and we can arrange collection. Thank you for your support.

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES

APRIL - OCT 2020:

7 Night Stay and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €266 per person sharing. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel.

020 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com.

Department for Spirituality:

Diocesan Advent resources available online and on CD from the Department. Daily Reflections in booklet form, Prayer Stations and more. To obtain a copy of the CD or for more information, please contact the Department by [email](mailto:) or phone on 0191 243 3302.

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

Day	DATE	St Wilfrid's	TIME	St Joseph's	TIME
Saturday	7 th	Margaret Curry	5.00pm		
Second Sunday of Advent	8 th	Polish Mass	11.00am	People of Parish Bishop Robert Presiding Intentions of Angela Hammond	10.00am Mid-Day (EF)
Monday	9 th	Bell & Cantwell families	10.00		
Tuesday	10 th			Daniel & Alice Walker	12.05
Wednesday	11 th	Funeral Service Robert Middlemiss	1.00pm	Legion of Mary NO ANOINTING OF THE SICK	12.05
Thursday	12 th			NO MASS	12.05
Friday	13 th	No Mass	10.00	Funeral Service Joe Smith John & Frances Powell	10.00am 12.05
Saturday	14 th	Priest`s Intention	5.00pm	Reparation for idolatry	11.00 (EF)
Third Sunday of Advent	15 th	Polish Mass	11.00am	Elsie and George Dalton People of the Parish	10.00 am Midday (EF)

"EF" = EXTRAORDINARY FORM OF THE MASS IN LATIN ACCORDING TO 1962 ROMAN MISSAL

Priest's sick communions: None this week

Remember in your prayers those who are sick; especially Pat Palmer, Bernadette Hand, Albert Hanley, Jeanette Brenkley, Eva Barnwell, Mona Richardson and Sheila Gibertson.

COLLECTIONS: - ST JOSEPH'S £592.96

ST WILFRID'S £174.23

DONATIONS £5

MANY THANKS.